

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend the following claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A passing examination system comprising:

a passing ticket issuer, including:

an insertion port to receive a Travel Document (TD) recording individual information which specifies a bearer;

a reader to read the individual information from the TD and specific information printed on the TD after the TD is inserted into the insertion port by the bearer;

an acquiring portion to acquire biological information of the bearer;

a collator to collate the biological information of the bearer acquired by the acquiring portion with the individual information read from the TD of the bearer by the reader;

an examination portion to examine authenticity of the TD based on the specific information read from the TD by the reader and determine whether to approve the passing of the bearer based on whether the biological information of the bearer and the individual information read from the TD of the bearer are in agreement as a result of collation by the collator;

~~a passing ticket~~ an issuer to issue a passing ticket to the bearer only when the bearer is approved to pass by the examination portion and to withhold issuance of the passing ticket if the bearer is not approved; and

a recovering portion to recover the TD when the examination portion determines that the TD is forged;

a gate, which is installed at a location away from the passing ticket issuer, to approve the passage of the bearer by accepting the passing ticket issued by the passing

ticket issuer to the bearer who is approved to pass thereby to prevent the bearer who is not approved from passing the gate without the passing ticket; and

an examination booth, provided at a location away from the passing ticket issuer,
wherein an examiner examines the bearer to whom the passing ticket is not issued and the
bearer's TD.

2. (Canceled)

3. (Canceled)

4. (Canceled)

5. (Canceled)

6. (Canceled)

7. (Currently Amended) The system according to claim 1, wherein the issuer
of the passing ticket ~~issuer~~ issues a passing ticket recording the biological information
already collated by the examination portion to the bearer, and

the gate accepts the passing ticket inserted by the bearer, approves the passage of
the bearer, returns the passing ticket to the bearer who passed the gate, accepts the returned
passing ticket inserted again by the bearer, reads the biological information recorded on
the passing ticket and approves the passage of the bearer through the gate in the reverse
direction.

8. (Currently Amended) A passing examination system comprising:

a passing ticket issuer, including:

an insertion port to receive a Travel Document (TD) recording individual
information which specifies a bearer;

a reader to read the individual information from the TD and specific
information printed on the TD after the TD is inserted into the insertion port by the bearer;

a first acquiring portion to acquire biological information of the bearer;

a first collator to collate the biological information of the bearer acquired by the first acquiring portion with the individual information read from the TD of the bearer by the reader;

a first examination portion to examine authenticity of the TD based on the specific information read from the TD by the reader and determine whether to approve the passing of the bearer based on whether the biological information of the bearer and the individual information read from the TD of the bearer are in agreement as a result of collation by the first collator;

~~a passing ticket~~ an issuer to issue a passing ticket recording the biological information that has been collated by the first collator to the bearer only when the bearer is approved to pass by the first examination portion and to withhold issuance of the passing ticket if the bearer is not approved; and

a recovering portion to recover the TD when the examination portion determines that the TD is forged;

a first gate, which is installed at a location away from the passing ticket issuer, to accept an inserted passing ticket issued to the bearer who is approved to pass by the passing ticket issuer, approving the passage of the bearer in a first direction and returning the accepted passing ticket to the bearer thereby to prevent the bearer who is not approved from passing the gate without the passing ticket;

an examination booth, provided at a location away from the passing ticket issuer, wherein an examiner examines the bearer to whom the passing ticket is not issued and the bear's TD; and

an immigration apparatus, including:

a passing ticket insertion port to accept the passing ticket inserted by the bearer when the bearer moves in a second direction opposite to the first direction after the

bearer passes the first gate in the first direction;

a passing ticket reader to read the biological information from the passing ticket inserted into the passing ticket insertion port by the bearer;

a second acquiring portion to acquire biological information of the bearer;

a second collator to collate the biological information of the bearer acquired by the second acquiring portion with the biological information read from the passing ticket by the passing ticket reader;

a second examination portion to approve the passage of the bearer based on whether the biological information of the bearer and the ~~individual information read from the TD of the bearer~~ biological information read from the passing ticket are in agreement as a result of collation by the second collator; and

a second gate to permit the passage of the bearer in the second direction based on the approval of the passage of the bearer by the second examination portion.

9. (Canceled)

10. (Canceled)

11. (Currently Amended) A passing examination method, comprising:

accepting ~~an inserted~~ a TD, which is inserted an insertion portion of a passing ticket issuer, the TD containing individual information specifying a bearer of the TD;

reading the individual information from the TD and specific information printed on the TD after the TD is inserted into the insertion portion by the bearer;

acquiring biological information of the bearer;

collating the acquired biological information of the bearer with the individual information read from the TD of the bearer;

examining authenticity of the TD based on the specific information read from the TD ~~by the reader~~ and determining whether to approve the passing of the bearer based on

whether the biological information of the bearer and the individual information read from the TD of the bearer are in agreement as a result of the ~~collation~~ collating;

issuing a passing ticket to the bearer only when the bearer is approved to pass an immigration gate ~~by the examination in the examining~~ and to withhold issuance of the passing ticket if the bearer is not approved; ~~and~~

recovering the TD when the examining determines that the TD is forged;

approving the passage of the bearer by accepting the inserted passing ticket thereby to prevent the bearer who is not approved from passing the gate without the passing ticket; and

examining, by an examiner in an examination booth located away from the passing ticket issuer, the bearer to whom the passing ticket is not issued and the bear's TD.

12. (Canceled)

13. (Canceled)

14. (Canceled)

15. (Canceled)

16. (Canceled)

17. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 11, wherein the issuing of the passing ticket includes issuing a passing ticket which records [recording] the biological information that has been collated during the examination ~~is issued~~ [to the bearer] ~~during the issuing~~, and

upon accepting the passing ticket inserted by the bearer, the passing of the bearer is approved, the passing ticket is returned to the bearer, the passing ticket inserted again by the bearer is accepted, the biological information recorded on the passing ticket is read, and the passing of the bearer in an opposite direction is approved in the approving.

18. (Currently Amended) A passing examination method, comprising:

accepting a ~~Travel Document (TD)~~ TD, which is inserted in an insertion portion of a passing ticket issuer, the TD recording individual information specifying a bearer of the TD;

reading the individual information from the TD and specific information printed on the TD, wherein the TD is inserted into ~~an~~ the insertion port by the bearer;

acquiring ~~the~~ biological information of the bearer;

collating the acquired biological information of the bearer with the individual information read from the TD;

examining authenticity of the TD based on the specific information read from the TD ~~by the reader~~ and determining whether to approve the passing of the bearer based on whether the biological information of the bearer and the individual information read from the TD of the bearer are in agreement as a result of the ~~collation~~ collating;

issuing a passing ticket recording the collated biological information to the bearer only when the bearer is approved to pass a gate in the ~~examination~~ examining and to withhold issuance of the passing ticket if the bearer is not approved;

recovering the TD into the passing ticket issuer when the examining determines that the TD is forged;

approving the bearer to pass the first gate in a first direction by accepting the passing ticket after the passing ticket is inserted into the first gate by the bearer who is approved to pass and returning the accepted passing ticket to the bearer from the first gate thereby to prevent the bearer who is not approved from passing the first gate without the passing ticket;

examining, by an examiner in an examination booth located away from the passing ticket issuer, the bearer to whom the passing ticket is not issued and the bearer's TD;

accepting the passing ticket after the returned passing ticket is inserted ~~again~~ into a

second gate when the bearer moves in a second direction opposite to the first direction after the bearer passes in the first direction;

reading the biological information recorded on the passing ticket that is inserted into the second gate by the bearer;

acquiring the bearer's biological information;

collating the acquired bearer's biological information with the biological information read from the passing ticket;

examining whether to approve the passing of the bearer based on whether the acquired bearer's biological information ~~of the bearer~~ and the individual biological information read from the TD of the bearer passing ticket are in agreement as a result of the ~~collation~~ collating; and

approving ~~the passing of the bearer~~ to pass the second gate in the second direction.

19. (Canceled)

20. (Canceled)

21. (New) A passing examination system comprising:

a passing ticket issuer including:

an insertion port to receive a Travel Document (TD) recording individual information which specifies a bearer,

a reader to read the individual information from the TD and specific information printed on the TD after the TD is inserted into the insertion port by the bearer,

an acquiring portion to acquire biological information of the bearer,

a collator to collate the biological information of the bearer acquired by the acquiring portion with the individual information read from the TD of the bearer by the reader,

an examination portion to examine the authenticity of the TD based on the

specific information read from the TD by the reader and whether to approve the passing of the bearer based on whether the biological information of the bearer and the individual information read from the TD of the bearer are in agreement as a result of collation by the collator,

an issuer to issue a passing ticket to the bearer only when the bearer is approved to pass by the examination portion and to withhold issuance of the passing ticket if the bearer is not approved, and

a recovering portion to recover the TD when the examination portion determines that the TD is not authentic, and

a data base pre-recording individual information of a bearer whose passing is to be rejected,

wherein the collator queries the data base as to the individual information read by the reader and the examination portion disapproves the passing of the bearer when the individual information exists in the data base as a result of the query;

a gate, installed at a location away from the passing ticket issuer, to approve the passage of the bearer by accepting the passing ticket issued by the passing ticket issuer to the bearer who is approved to pass thereby to prevent the bearer who is disapproved from passing the gate without the passing ticket; and

an examination booth, provided at a location away from the passing ticket issuer, wherein an examiner examines the bearer to whom the passing ticket is not issued.

22. (New) The system according to claim 1, wherein the TD records at least one of a forgery preventing mark having a prescribed color and a print pattern of a pre-determined specific character thereon, the passing ticket issuer further includes means for identifying the prescribed color of the at least one of a forgery preventing mark and the print pattern of the pre-determined specific character recorded on the TD to determine

whether the TD is forged, and the recovering portion recovers the TD when the identifying means determines that the TD is forged.

23. (New) The system according to claim 21, wherein the TD records at least one of a forgery preventing mark having a prescribed color and a print pattern of a pre-determined specific character thereon, the passing ticket issuer further includes means for identifying the prescribed color of the at least one of a forgery preventing mark and the print pattern of the pre-determined specific character recorded on the TD to determine whether the TD is forged, and the recovering portion recovers the TD when the identifying means determines that the TD is forged.

24. (New) A passing examination system comprising:

a passing ticket issuer, including:

an insertion port to receive a Travel Document (TD) recording individual information which specifies a bearer,

a reader to read the individual information from the TD and specific information printed on the TD after the TD is inserted into the insertion port by the bearer,

a first acquiring portion to acquire biological information of the bearer,

a first collator to collate the biological information of the bearer acquired by the first acquiring portion with the individual information read from the TD of the bearer by the reader,

a first examination portion to examine the authenticity of the TD based on the specific information read from the TD by the reader and determine whether to approve the passing of the bearer based on whether the biological information of the bearer and the individual information read from the TD of the bearer are in agreement as a result of collation by the first collator,

an issuer to issue a passing ticket recording the biological information that

has been collated by the first collator to the bearer only when the bearer is approved to pass by the first examination portion and to withhold issuance of the passing ticket if the bearer is not approved,

a recovering portion to recover the TD when the examination portion determines that the TD is forged, and

a data base pre-recording individual information of a bearer whose passing is to be rejected,

wherein the collator queries the data base as to the individual information read by the reader and the examination portion disapproves the passing of the bearer when the individual information exists in the data base as a result of the query;

a first gate, installed at a location away from the passing ticket issuer, to accept an inserted passing ticket issued to the bearer who is approved to pass by the passing ticket, approving the passage of the bearer in a first direction and returning the accepted passing ticket to the bearer thereby to prevent the bearer who is not approved from passing the gate without the passing ticket;

an examination booth, which is provided at a location away from the passing ticket issuer and wherein an examiner examines the bearer to whom the passing ticket is not issued and his or her TD;

an immigration apparatus, including:

a passing ticket insertion port to accept the passing ticket inserted by the bearer when the bearer moves in a second direction opposite to the first direction after the bearer passes the first gate in the first direction,

a passing ticket reader to read the biological information from the passing ticket inserted into the passing ticket insertion port by the bearer,

a second collator to collate the biological information of the bearer acquired

by the second acquiring portion with the biological information read from the passing ticket by the passing ticket reader, and

a second examination portion to approve the passage of the bearer based on whether the biological information of the bearer and the individual information read from the TD of the bearer are in agreement as a result of collation by the second collator; and

a second gate to permit the passage of the bearer in the second direction based on the approval of the passage of the bearer by the second examination portion.

25. (New) The system according to claim 8, wherein the TD records at least one of a forgery preventing mark having a prescribed color and a print pattern of a pre-determined specific character thereon, the passing ticket issuer further includes means for identifying the prescribed color of the at least one of a forgery preventing mark and the print pattern of the pre-determined specific character recorded on the TD to determine whether the TD is forged, and the recovering portion recovers the TD when the identifying means determines that the TD is forged.

26. (New) The system according to claim 24, wherein the TD records at least one of a forgery preventing mark having a prescribed color and a print pattern of a pre-determined specific character thereon, the passing ticket issuer further includes means for identifying the prescribed color of the at least one of a forgery preventing mark and the print pattern of the pre-determined specific character recorded on the TD to determine whether the TD is forged, and the recovering portion recovers the TD when the identifying means determines that the TD is forged.